

REMARKS

In general, the invention features an array of transfected eukaryotic cells. The array has at least 96 locations placed at a density of at least 100 locations per square centimeter. Each location has eukaryotic cells that are transfected with one or more defined nucleic acid molecules.

Claims 160-177 and 237-240 are pending and have been examined on the merits. Claims 160-175 and 237-240 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,479). Claims 176 and 177 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Taylor.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for participating in a telephonic interview with the undersigned on August 30, 2005. This interview focused on the teachings of Taylor, in particular the Examiner's contention that "Taylor clearly teaches making of miniaturized high-throughput cell array and an apparatus for cell-based screening, wherein a 20mm x 30mm micropatterned support fills 1000 x 1500 arrays" (page 4, second paragraph of the Office action). Applicant reiterated during the interview the position set forth in the reply to the previous Office action: the passage relied upon by the Office (column 16, lines 44-50, of Taylor) does not refer to any number of locations or to any array density, let alone to an array having the recited parameters. Rather, this passage describes an array having dimensions of 20 mm x 30 mm that, when imaged, would consist of 1000 pixels x 1500 pixels. In other words, this passage is referring to the resolution that could be achieved using a luminescence reader instrument. During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged that Taylor fails to describe an array of at least 96 locations of transfected eukaryotic cells having a density of at least 100 locations per square centimeter, as is required by the claims. While the Examiner did not state that the claims are patentable over Taylor, the Examiner did not set forth any other basis for finding the claims unpatentable.

Because Taylor fails to describe every limitation of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 160-175 and 237-240 as being anticipated by Taylor be withdrawn.

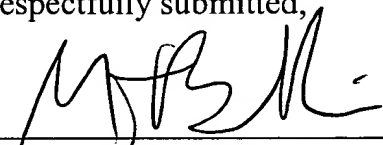
As the deficiencies of Taylor are not remedied by Montgomery, which simply teaches the introduction of double-stranded RNA into the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, no combination of the cited references teaches or suggests each and every limitation of claims 176 and 177. Accordingly, Applicant further requests that the rejection of these claims as being obvious over Taylor and Montgomery be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Enclosed are a petition to extend the period for replying for three months, to and including October 20, 2005, and a check for \$510.00 for the required petition fee. If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.


Date: 10/19/05

Respectfully submitted,



Kristina Bieker-Brady, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 39,109

Clark & Elbing LLP
101 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045


Reg. No. 52,608